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A STUDY OF PREPOSITIONAL ERRORS IN WRITING

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE:

(A Study on Prepositional errors made by undergraduates of

Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka)

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Abstract

A research study was undertaken to identify the prepositional errors in writing English made by under graduates of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and to find out the reasons why they commit this mistake and to recommend remedial measures to overcome this problem. A pre-test, an immediate test and a post-test were administered during the survey period. Pre-Test was conducted as soon as the students entered the Faculty of Agriculture and an immediate test after one week of the first semester and the post test at the end of the studies in the first year.

A questionnaire survey was undertaken among the sampled group of 42 students as well as some students in the Faculty of Agriculture, several English teachers in two schools in the Anuradhapura District, and a few Lecturers and Instructors in English of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

Survey data analyzed statistically revealed the problematic area of learning prepositions, and other relevant information with regard to the learning area and the external factors. However English environment, lack of English teachers, teaching methodology and classroom environment were identified as some of the problems the students have had.

Key Words

- *Prepositions*
- *Teaching Methodology*
- *Remedial Measures*
- *External Factors*
- *Classroom environment*